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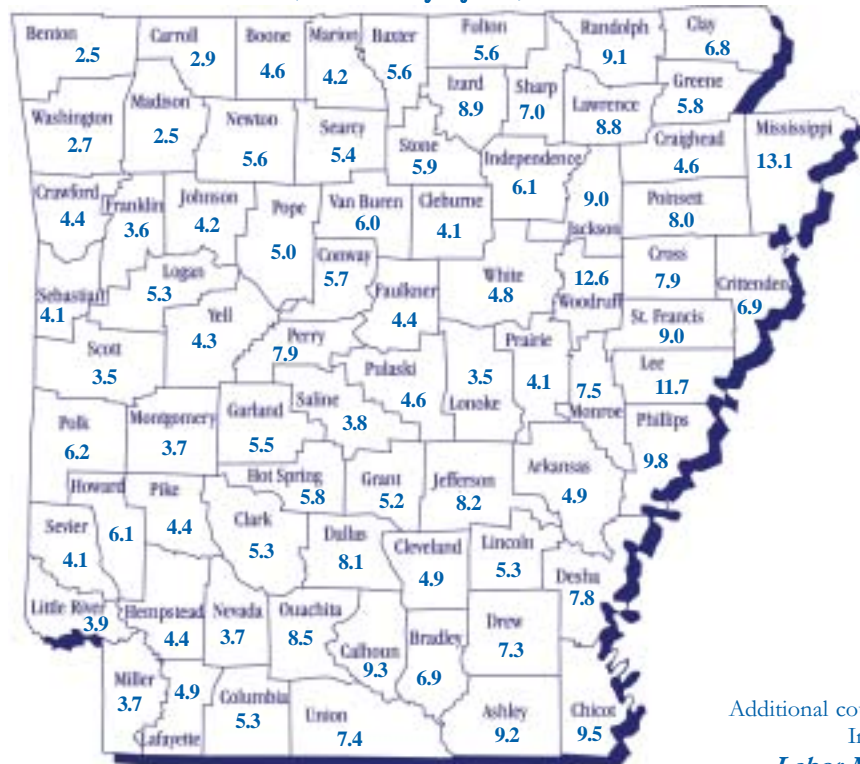
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Arkansas Unemployment Rates by County August 2003 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Additional county statistics are available from the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in the monthly publication,
Labor Market Information for Arkansas Counties.

Mike Huckabee - Governor
State of Arkansas

Jane English - Executive Director
Arkansas Workforce Investment Board

Labor Market Trends is a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Section of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board. This newsletter is published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.

- Seventy-three of Arkansas' 75 counties posted lower unemployment rates in August when compared with July statistics. Jobless rates were unchanged in Baxter and Lafayette counties between July and August.
- Mississippi County, with an unemployment rate of 13.1 percent, continued to have the state's highest rate. Jobless rates above 10.0 percent were also noted in Woodruff (12.6 percent) and Lee (11.7 percent) counties. In comparison, there were 12 counties with rates above 10.0 percent in July.
- Twelve counties had unemployment rates equal to or below 4.0 percent in August, compared with five in July. Benton and Madison counties, each with 2.5 percent unemployed, posted the lowest rate in August.

Arkansas Labor Market Trends



August 2003

State Adds 6,000 to Nonfarm Total

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted) expanded by 6,000 jobs between July and August to 1,143,000. Staffing for the fall semester at state and local educational facilities provided much of the increase. Employment advanced in six of the state's eleven major sectors.

The start of the fall semester at state and local educational facilities provides the stimulus for a gain of 4,500 jobs in **government** in August. The increase is normal for this time of year as support personnel return to work for the new school year.

Education and health services showed a seasonal gain of 1,000 jobs in August after declining 700 in July. The increase was scattered throughout the health care and social assistance industries.

Professional and business services added 800 jobs over the month to total 102,400. Employment service companies were responsible for the gain.

Arkansas' **construction** industry, at 55,900, boosted its employment by 200. Job gains of 200 in "heavy construction" and 100 in "special trades" were partially offset by a decline of 100 jobs in the "construction of buildings" segment.

The **trade-transportation-utilities** and **information** sectors had job additions of 100 each.

Manufacturing employment declined 500 to the 207,200 level in August. A loss of 600 jobs in durable goods was partially offset by a gain of 100 in nondurable goods. Within durable goods, the largest job loss was in furniture and related products (-500).

Employment in **leisure-hospitality** and **other services**, at 92,400 and 41,100 respectively, declined 100 each in August.

The number of **natural resources-mining** and **financial activities** jobs remained at 6,900 and 50,600, respectively.

Continued on page 2



Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| North American Industry Classification | August 03 | July 03 | August 02 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Nonfarm | 1,143,000 | 1,137,000 | 1,143,700 |
| Goods Producing | 270,000 | 270,300 | 278,100 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 6,900 | 6,900 | 7,000 |
| Mining | 3,700 | 3,700 | 3,700 |
| Construction | 55,900 | 55,700 | 57,400 |
| Construction of Buildings | 12,700 | 12,800 | 12,200 |
| Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction | 12,400 | 12,200 | 14,800 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 30,800 | 30,700 | 30,400 |
| Manufacturing | 207,200 | 207,700 | 213,700 |
| Durable Goods | 109,700 | 110,300 | 115,600 |
| Wood Products | 14,200 | 14,400 | 14,700 |
| Primary Metals | 7,900 | 7,800 | 8,400 |
| Fabricated Metals | 17,700 | 17,700 | 18,600 |
| Machinery | 15,200 | 15,300 | 15,400 |
| Computer & Electronic Products | 6,000 | 5,900 | 6,400 |
| Electrical Equipment | 13,400 | 13,200 | 13,500 |
| Transportation Equipment | 15,900 | 16,000 | 16,200 |
| Furniture & Related Products | 8,000 | 8,500 | 9,700 |
| Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 6,600 | 6,700 | 7,800 |
| Nondurable Goods | 97,500 | 97,400 | 98,100 |
| Food | 52,600 | 52,300 | 52,300 |
| Apparel | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,700 |
| Paper & Printing | 17,300 | 17,400 | 17,600 |
| Petroleum & Chemicals | 6,000 | 6,100 | 6,400 |
| Plastics & Rubber Products | 13,700 | 13,600 | 13,800 |
| Service Providing | 873,000 | 866,700 | 865,600 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 243,400 | 243,300 | 241,800 |
| Wholesale Trade | 44,200 | 44,400 | 45,300 |
| Retail Trade | 130,700 | 130,900 | 130,000 |
| Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers | 17,700 | 17,800 | 17,900 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 35,000 | 34,900 | 33,900 |
| Department Stores | 9,200 | 9,200 | 9,600 |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities | 68,500 | 68,000 | 66,500 |
| Utilities | 6,800 | 6,800 | 6,800 |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 61,700 | 61,200 | 59,700 |
| Truck Transportation | 36,900 | 36,700 | 35,100 |
| Warehousing & Storage | 10,000 | 9,700 | 9,700 |
| Information | 19,800 | 19,700 | 20,400 |
| Publishing Industries | 6,500 | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| Telecommunications | 8,700 | 8,700 | 8,800 |
| Financial Activities | 50,600 | 50,600 | 50,300 |
| Finance & Insurance | 37,700 | 37,800 | 37,300 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 12,900 | 12,800 | 13,000 |
| Professional & Business Services | 102,400 | 101,600 | 103,200 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 29,400 | 29,300 | 29,500 |
| Management of Companies | 22,500 | 22,500 | 22,600 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 50,500 | 49,800 | 51,100 |
| Employment Services | 23,800 | 22,900 | 25,200 |
| Education & Health Services | 138,100 | 137,100 | 134,700 |
| Educational Services | 10,200 | 10,200 | 9,700 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 127,900 | 126,900 | 125,000 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 38,300 | 38,100 | 37,800 |
| Hospitals | 41,800 | 41,700 | 41,000 |
| Nursing & Residential Care Facilities | 25,600 | 25,400 | 24,600 |
| Social Assistance | 22,200 | 21,700 | 21,600 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 92,400 | 92,500 | 91,500 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 9,900 | 10,300 | 10,200 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 82,500 | 82,200 | 81,300 |
| Accommodation Services | 11,200 | 11,400 | 11,300 |
| Food Services | 71,300 | 70,800 | 70,000 |
| Other Services | 41,100 | 41,200 | 41,300 |
| Automotive Repair | 7,200 | 7,200 | 7,600 |
| Government | 185,200 | 180,700 | 182,400 |
| Federal Government | 20,600 | 20,800 | 20,900 |
| State Government | 62,300 | 60,500 | 61,600 |
| Local Government | 102,300 | 99,400 | 99,900 |

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Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas declined 700. Goods producing industries lost 8,100 jobs. These losses were mostly offset by the addition of 7,400 jobs in service providing industries.

Employment in **education and health services** rose 3,400 over the year. Health care and social assistance facilities accounted for 85 percent of the growth.

The **government** sector has added 2,800 jobs since August 2002. This addition was due mainly to hiring in local government.

Jobs in **trade, transportation and utilities** were up 1,600. The year-to-year gain was attributed to increased demand for truck transportation.

Compared to the previous year, employment in **leisure and hospitality** advanced 900. Hiring in the food services segment accounted for the growth.

Led by advances at **finance and insurance companies**, the number of jobs in the financial activities sector rose 300 over the year.

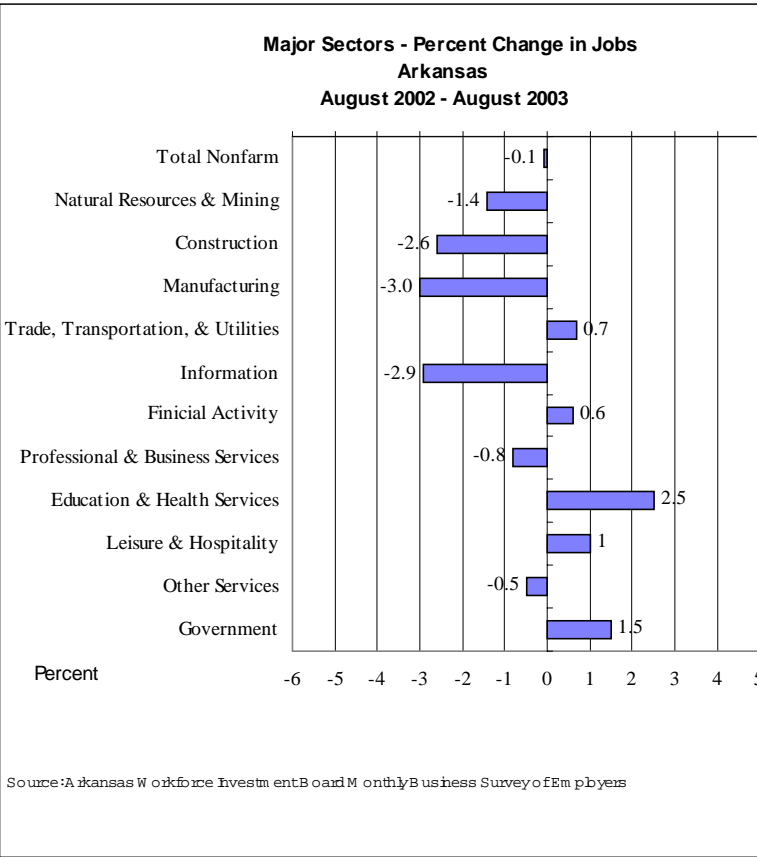
Manufacturing industries have lost 6,500 jobs since August 2002, following the downward trend seen nationwide. All manufacturing industries, except food, recorded losses. The largest job loss (-1,700) was in the furniture and related products industry.

Construction employment fell by 1,500 positions. “Heavy and civil engineering construction” losses (-2,400) more than offset additions in “construction of buildings” (+500) and “specialty trade contractors” (+400). The decline in heavy construction was traced to the completion of large construction projects.

Employment in the **professional and business services** sector was down 800 over the year. The employment services category accounted for most of the job losses.

The number of jobs in Arkansas’ **information** sector has declined 600 since August 2002.

The **natural resources-mining** and **other services** sector lost 100 and 200 jobs, respectively.



| Consumer Price Index for the United States: August 2003 | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1982-1984=100 Base | | | | | |
| | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 | Percent Change Since: | |
| | | | | July 03 | Aug. 02 |
| All Urban Consumers | 184.6 | 183.9 | 180.7 | + 0.4 | + 2.2 |
| Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers | 180.3 | 179.6 | 176.6 | + 0.4 | + 2.1 |

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| Hours & Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries - State of Arkansas | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NAICS Industry | Average Weekly Earnings | | Average Weekly Hours | | Average Hourly Earnings | | | | |
| | Aug. 2003 | July 2003 | Aug. 2002 | Aug. 2003 | July 2003 | Aug. 2002 | Aug. 2003 | July 2003 | Aug. 2002 |
| Manufacturing | \$546.80 | \$544.71 | \$536.54 | 40.0 | 39.5 | 40.1 | \$13.67 | \$13.79 | \$13.38 |
| Durable Goods | 559.37 | 544.56 | 515.58 | 41.1 | 40.1 | 39.0 | 13.61 | 13.58 | 13.22 |
| Wood Products | 534.90 | 556.85 | 544.75 | 40.4 | 41.9 | 41.3 | 13.24 | 13.29 | 13.19 |
| Fabricated Metals | 572.85 | 588.47 | 555.01 | 40.2 | 40.5 | 39.7 | 14.25 | 14.53 | 13.98 |
| Nondurable Goods | 533.50 | 544.36 | 559.62 | 38.8 | 38.8 | 41.3 | 13.75 | 14.03 | 13.55 |
| Food | 443.48 | 450.47 | 469.27 | 38.8 | 38.8 | 40.7 | 11.43 | 11.61 | 11.53 |

Technical Notes

“Labor Market Trends” is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System.

All estimates are based on a first quarter 2002 benchmark.

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

Monthly Business Survey of Employers - A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail questionnaires and telephone interviews by the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in cooperation with BLS. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Approximately 4,000 business establishments are included in the Arkansas survey.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) - A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

Current Population Survey (CPS)- A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is col-

lected by trained interviewers from a sample of about 50,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. A total of **732** Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

Civilian Labor Force - The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

Employment - An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

Unemployment - An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

Unemployment Rate - The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

Seasonal Adjustment - A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to such seasonal events as changes in the weather, major holidays, shifts in production schedules, harvest times, and the opening and closing of schools.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - A measure of the average change in prices over time of a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, and other items that people buy for day-to-day living. The CPI shown in this publication represents the U.S. city average and is not seasonally adjusted. There is no separate consumer price index for Arkansas.

| Labor Force Statistics | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Arkansas (Seasonally Adjusted) | August 2003 | July 2003 | August 2002 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,304,200 | 1,303,700 | 1,291,400 |
| Employment | 1,233,500 | 1,232,500 | 1,221,800 |
| Unemployment | 70,700 | 71,200 | 69,600 |
| Rate | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| Arkansas (Not Seasonally Adjusted) | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,313,900 | 1,330,000 | 1,301,600 |
| Employment | 1,246,100 | 1,250,400 | 1,234,800 |
| Unemployment | 67,800 | 79,600 | 66,800 |
| Rate | 5.2 | 6.0 | 5.1 |
| Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 176,550 | 176,975 | 170,650 |
| Employment | 171,925 | 171,525 | 166,625 |
| Unemployment | 4,625 | 5,450 | 4,025 |
| Rate | 2.6 | 3.1 | 2.4 |
| Fort Smith | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 104,275 | 105,225 | 101,400 |
| Employment | 99,600 | 99,825 | 97,075 |
| Unemployment | 4,675 | 5,400 | 4,325 |
| Rate | 4.5 | 5.1 | 4.3 |
| Jonesboro | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 47,525 | 47,775 | 45,425 |
| Employment | 45,350 | 45,500 | 43,350 |
| Unemployment | 2,175 | 2,275 | 2,075 |
| Rate | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.5 |
| Little Rock-North Little Rock | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 320,000 | 322,900 | 319,050 |
| Employment | 306,000 | 307,075 | 304,650 |
| Unemployment | 14,000 | 15,825 | 14,400 |
| Rate | 4.4 | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| Pine Bluff | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 37,475 | 37,975 | 37,050 |
| Employment | 34,400 | 34,475 | 33,700 |
| Unemployment | 3,075 | 3,500 | 3,350 |
| Rate | 8.2 | 9.2 | 9.0 |
| United States Unemployment Rates: | | | |
| Seasonally Adjusted | 6.1 | 6.2 | 5.8 |
| Not Seasonally Adjusted | 6.0 | 6.3 | 5.7 |

Note: MSA data are not seasonally adjusted.



Pine Bluff Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Show Small Increase Over the Year

Total nonfarm payroll jobs for the Pine Bluff MSA experienced little change in August. The number of jobs continues to hold around the 35,000 mark. The goods producing sector posted a modest gain (+100), with nondurable goods manufacturing providing the employment boost. Education and health services lost 100, offsetting this increase.

A gain of 200 resulted in a 0.6 percent increase for the year in total nonfarm payroll jobs for the Pine Bluff MSA. Additions of 200 each, were posted in the manufacturing and government sectors. Trade, transportation and utilities had an increase of 100 over the year. These gains were partly offset by losses in professional-business (-100) and education-health services (-300).

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| North American Industry Classification | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Nonfarm | 35,200 | 35,200 | 35,000 |
| Goods Producing | 8,000 | 7,900 | 7,800 |
| Natural Resources & Construction | 900 | 900 | 900 |
| Manufacturing | 7,100 | 7,000 | 6,900 |
| Nondurable Goods | 4,600 | 4,500 | 4,600 |
| Service Providing | 27,200 | 27,300 | 27,200 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 6,700 | 6,700 | 6,600 |
| Wholesale Trade | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 |
| Retail Trade | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,300 |
| Information | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Financial Activities | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| Professional & Business Services | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,200 |
| Education & Health Services | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,500 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,200 |
| Other Services | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,400 |
| Government | 7,900 | 8,000 | 7,700 |
| Federal Government | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,700 |
| State Government | 3,000 | 3,100 | 2,900 |
| Local Government | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,100 |

Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonfarm Gains Continue

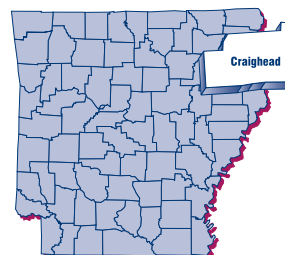
Employment gains were tied primarily to seasonal events in August. An increase in the Jonesboro MSA's nonfarm count was due to preparations for the fall school term, prompting a government increase of 100. Employment also rose 100 in the education and health services sector. Wholesale trade jobs, showing little movement all year, slipped 100 in July and rebounded in August, thus boosting the count in trade this month. Additions in the construction industry put 100 more to work in August.

The only other major industry to show movement during the month was manufacturing where employment was down 100.

Total nonfarm jobs in the Jonesboro MSA are up 1,400 compared with the level one year ago. Six of the ten major industry groups have additional employment. More than 42 percent of the total nonfarm gain was supplied by the government sector (+600). State and local government contributed equally.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| North American Industry Classification | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Nonfarm | 42,200 | 41,900 | 40,800 |
| Construction | 220 | 210 | 210 |
| Manufacturing | 7,600 | 7,700 | 7,400 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 8,200 | 8,100 | 8,100 |
| Information | 700 | 700 | 700 |
| Financial Activities | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Professional & Business Services | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,100 |
| Education & Health Services | 6,700 | 6,600 | 6,500 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 |
| Other Services | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| Government | 6,600 | 6,500 | 6,000 |



Fayetteville - Springdale - Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| North American Industry Classification | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Nonfarm | 171,700 | 169,900 | 169,400 |
| Goods Producing | 38,100 | 37,900 | 39,100 |
| Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Manufacturing | 30,100 | 29,900 | 31,100 |
| Durable Goods | 12,800 | 12,600 | 13,300 |
| Fabricated Metals | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,700 |
| Nondurable Goods | 17,300 | 17,300 | 17,800 |
| Food | 12,400 | 12,400 | 12,800 |
| Service Providing | 133,600 | 132,000 | 130,300 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 43,900 | 43,800 | 42,000 |
| Wholesale Trade | 7,800 | 7,800 | 7,200 |
| Retail Trade | 17,600 | 17,600 | 17,300 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,100 |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities | 18,500 | 18,400 | 17,500 |
| Information | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,300 |
| Financial Activities | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,600 |
| Professional & Business Services | 26,500 | 26,500 | 26,600 |
| Employment Services | 3,900 | 3,900 | 4,100 |
| Education & Health Services | 15,100 | 15,000 | 14,600 |
| Hospitals | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 13,600 | 13,300 | 13,700 |
| Other Services | 4,800 | 4,700 | 4,700 |
| Government | 20,600 | 19,600 | 19,800 |
| Federal Government | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,700 |
| State Government | 7,400 | 6,600 | 7,300 |
| Local Government | 11,400 | 11,200 | 10,800 |

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Are Up Over the Month and Year

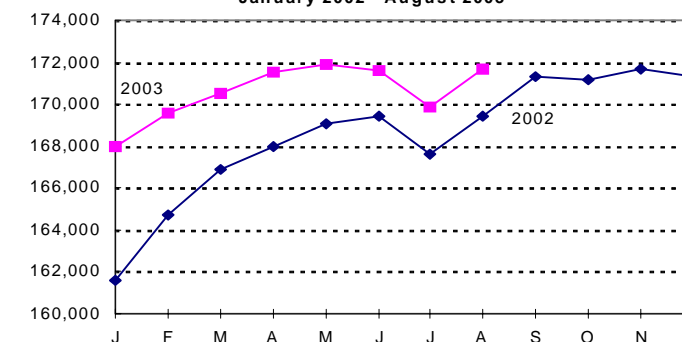
Nonfarm employment in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA rose 1,800 over the month to total 171,700 in August. Six major sectors added jobs over the month, while four were unchanged.

The largest monthly gain was the increase of 1,000 in government. Most of the gain resulted from the recall of support personnel at state and local schools in preparation for the fall semester. Leisure and hospitality added 300 jobs. Durable goods jobs accounted for the manufacturing rebound of 200.

Since August 2002, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 2,300, for a growth rate of 1.4 percent. Advances in five major sectors were partly offset by losses in four.

Yearly changes ranged from a drop of 1,000 in manufacturing to a gain of 1,900 in trade, transportation, and utilities. Other gains occurred in government (+800), education and health services (+500), financial activities (+300), and other services (+100).

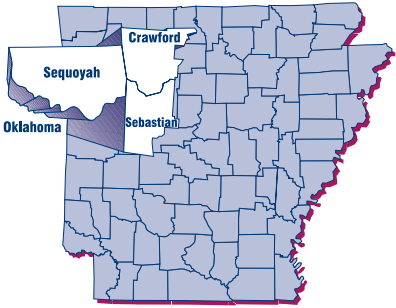
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
January 2002 - August 2003



Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

| | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$536.64 | \$562.80 | \$528.94 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.0 | 40.2 | 39.8 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | \$13.76 | \$14.00 | \$13.29 |

Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area



Local Government Lifts Nonfarm Total

Nonfarm payroll employment rose 800 in August in the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area. Service providing industries gained 700 jobs, while the number of goods producing jobs rose 100. The largest increase occurred in government, which was sparked by a gain of 600 in the local government segment. Smaller additions were posted in construction and professional-business services.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs rose 900, with goods producing industries gaining 400 positions and service providing industries adding 500. Manufacturing and government had the largest increases--500 and 700, respectively. The leisure and hospitality sector suffered the largest reduction, eliminating 500 jobs over the year. The education and health services industry had more workers this year despite the loss of 300 in the hospital segment.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| North American Industry Classification | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Nonfarm | 101,500 | 100,700 | 100,600 |
| Goods Producing | 31,700 | 31,600 | 31,300 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 800 | 800 | 900 |
| Construction | 4,700 | 4,600 | 4,700 |
| Manufacturing | 26,200 | 26,200 | 25,700 |
| Durable Goods | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,300 |
| Electrical Equipment | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Nondurable Goods | 10,700 | 10,700 | 10,400 |
| Food | 7,100 | 7,100 | 6,900 |
| Service Providing | 69,800 | 69,100 | 69,300 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 19,500 | 19,500 | 19,400 |
| Wholesale Trade | 3,200 | 3,200 | 3,200 |
| Retail Trade | 10,700 | 10,800 | 10,800 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,300 |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities | 5,600 | 5,500 | 5,400 |
| Truck Transportation | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,900 |
| Information | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| Financial Activities | 3,700 | 3,700 | 3,600 |
| Professional & Business Services | 10,700 | 10,500 | 10,900 |
| Employment Services | 5,400 | 5,100 | 5,700 |
| Education & Health Services | 13,300 | 13,300 | 13,000 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 12,900 | 12,800 | 12,500 |
| Hospitals | 4,600 | 4,600 | 4,900 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 7,000 | 7,100 | 7,500 |
| Other Services | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 |
| Government | 11,000 | 10,400 | 10,300 |
| Federal Government | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 |
| State Government | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| Local Government | 8,100 | 7,500 | 7,400 |

Hours & Earnings of Production Workers

Manufacturing Industries

| | August 03 | July 03 | August 02 |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$537.62 | \$558.50 | \$554.96 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.3 | 40.5 | 41.2 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | \$13.68 | \$13.79 | \$13.47 |

Little Rock - North Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area



Many Workers Return to Jobs in Schools

Workers returning to jobs in the school systems helped lift total nonfarm employment in the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA in August. Of the 1,500 total increase between July and August, more than 53 percent were persons returning to jobs at state and local educational facilities. The gain of 800 in government was the largest increase for a major industry.

Professional and business services jobs rose 500 over the month. Many of these positions were centered in employment services.

Four additional major sectors posted job gains ranging from 100 to 300 in August, while only two groups noted losses. Layoffs of 400 in manufacturing and 100 in natural resources-construction accounted for the reductions. Cutbacks at a few large firms contributed to the losses in durable goods manufacturing.

Area nonfarm employment is significantly lower in August 2003 when compared with August one year ago. Total nonfarm jobs are down 4,100. Combined cutbacks of 2,800 jobs in manufacturing and trade-transportation-utilities represented more than 68 percent of the year-to-year downturn. Four other industry groups--natural resources-construction, education-health services, leisure-hospitality, and other services--lost at least 500 jobs, each.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| North American Industry Classification | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Nonfarm | 313,200 | 311,700 | 317,300 |
| Goods Producing | 42,700 | 43,200 | 45,000 |
| Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction | 17,700 | 17,800 | 18,200 |
| Special Trade Contractors | 9,600 | 9,700 | 10,100 |
| Manufacturing | 25,000 | 25,400 | 26,800 |
| Durable Goods | 15,200 | 15,600 | 16,900 |
| Fabricated Metals | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,300 |
| Computer & Electronic Equipment | 2,100 | 2,200 | 2,400 |
| Transportation Equipment | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,600 |
| Nondurable Goods | 9,800 | 9,800 | 9,900 |
| Service Providing | 270,500 | 268,500 | 272,300 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 66,600 | 66,300 | 67,600 |
| Wholesale Trade | 15,300 | 15,100 | 16,100 |
| Retail Trade | 34,200 | 34,400 | 34,400 |
| Food & Beverage Stores | 4,500 | 4,600 | 4,600 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 7,800 | 7,900 | 7,600 |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities | 17,100 | 16,800 | 17,100 |
| Information | 9,000 | 8,900 | 9,100 |
| Telecommunications | 4,700 | 4,900 | 5,100 |
| Financial Activities | 19,600 | 19,600 | 19,200 |
| Professional & Business Services | 40,100 | 39,600 | 39,400 |
| Computer Systems | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,200 |
| Employment Services | 8,700 | 8,400 | 8,700 |
| Education & Health Services | 38,900 | 38,800 | 39,500 |
| Hospitals | 12,700 | 12,600 | 12,700 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 24,500 | 24,300 | 25,000 |
| Food Services | 18,900 | 18,600 | 19,000 |
| Other Services | 11,900 | 11,900 | 12,500 |
| Government | 59,900 | 59,100 | 60,000 |
| Federal Government | 9,200 | 9,200 | 9,200 |
| State Government | 27,800 | 27,200 | 27,900 |
| Local Government | 22,900 | 22,700 | 22,900 |

Hours and Earnings of Production Workers

| | Manufacturing Industries | | | Durable Goods Industries | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 | Aug. 03 | July 03 | Aug. 02 |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$599.66 | \$535.28 | \$572.40 | \$603.28 | \$514.76 | \$581.57 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 42.2 | 39.1 | 42.4 | 40.9 | 36.9 | 41.9 |
| Average Hourly Earnings | \$14.21 | \$13.69 | \$13.50 | \$14.75 | \$13.95 | \$13.88 |